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BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, JUNE 1 (AP)--SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD TRIES FOR A COMPROMISE TODAY BEFORE A POSSIBLE SHOWDOWN ON SENATE SUPERVISION OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

MANSFIELD CALLED LAST NIGHT FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRINCIPALS IN THE CONTROVERSY--CHAIRMAN J. W. FULBRIGHT OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN RICHARD B. RUSSELL OF THE PRESENT CIA WATCHDOG GROUP AND SEN. EUGENE J. McCARTHY, D-MINN.

FULBRIGHT, ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT, SAID HE WILL INTRODUCE IN THE SENATE TODAY McCARTHY'S RESOLUTION SETTING UP A NINE-MAN WATCHDOG COMMITTEE WITH THREE MEMBERS EACH FROM THE FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

BUT THE SHOWDOWN VOTE MAY DEPEND ON BACKSTAGE STRATEGY, OTHER BUSINESS AND SENATE ATTENDANCE. FULBRIGHT POSTPONED HIS MOVE LAST WEEK BECAUSE HE FELT NOT ENOUGH SENATORS WERE IN TOWN.

THE MOVE IS OPPOSED BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT CIA PANEL HEADED BY RUSSELL, A GEORGIA DEMOCRAT, AND COMPOSED OF SIX OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

SEVERAL COMPROMISES ARE BEING MENTIONED, INCLUDING THE ADDITION OF TWO SENIOR FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO THE PRESENT PANEL OR AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE CIA IS WILLING TO BRIEFS THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON ITS ACTIVITIES.

UNLESS SOME COMPROMISE IS WORKED OUT--AND RUSSELL SAYS THIS IS EXTREMELY DOUBTFUL--THE RESOLUTION STANDS LITTLE CHANCE WHEN CONFRONTED WITH SUCH POWERFUL OPPOSITION AS RUSSELL AND REPUBLICAN LEADER EVERETT B. DIRKSEN.

DIRKSEN WARNED AGAINST OPENING THE DOOR TO WHOLESALE CONGRESSIONAL PRYING INTO CLOAK AND DAGGER ACTIVITIES.

IF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WANTS ITS FIGHT TO PUT THREE OF ITS MEMBERS ON THE SENATE'S SPECIAL CIA WATCHDOG PANEL, DIRKSEN SAID IN AN INTERVIEW, IT WOULD BE AN OPEN INVITATION TO OTHER COMMITTEES TO TRY TO FOLLOW SUIT.

FULBRIGHT AND McCARTHY ARGUE THEIR COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE A ROLE IN SUPERVISING THE CIA BECAUSE OF THE SPY AGENCY'S IMPACT ON FOREIGN POLICY-MAKING. THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVED THE RESOLUTION 14 TO 5.

DIRKSEN COUNTERED: "IF IT MAKES SENSE FOR THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO BE REPRESENTED, IT MAKES JUST AS MUCH SENSE FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE TO BE REPRESENTED."

THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, TO WHICH HE BELONGS, MIGHT HAVE A CLAIM, TOO, DIRKSEN SAID, BECAUSE IT HANDLES LEGISLATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF ALIENS THE CIA WANTS TO BRING INTO THIS COUNTRY.

MEANWHILE, McCARTHY SENT LETTERS TO 27 SENATORS HE CONSIDERS UNCOMMITED ASKING THEIR SUPPORT IN OPPOSING ANY EFFORT BY RUSSELL TO KILL THE CIA RESOLUTION BY SHUNTING IT TO HIS ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE OR TO THE RULES COMMITTEE.

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